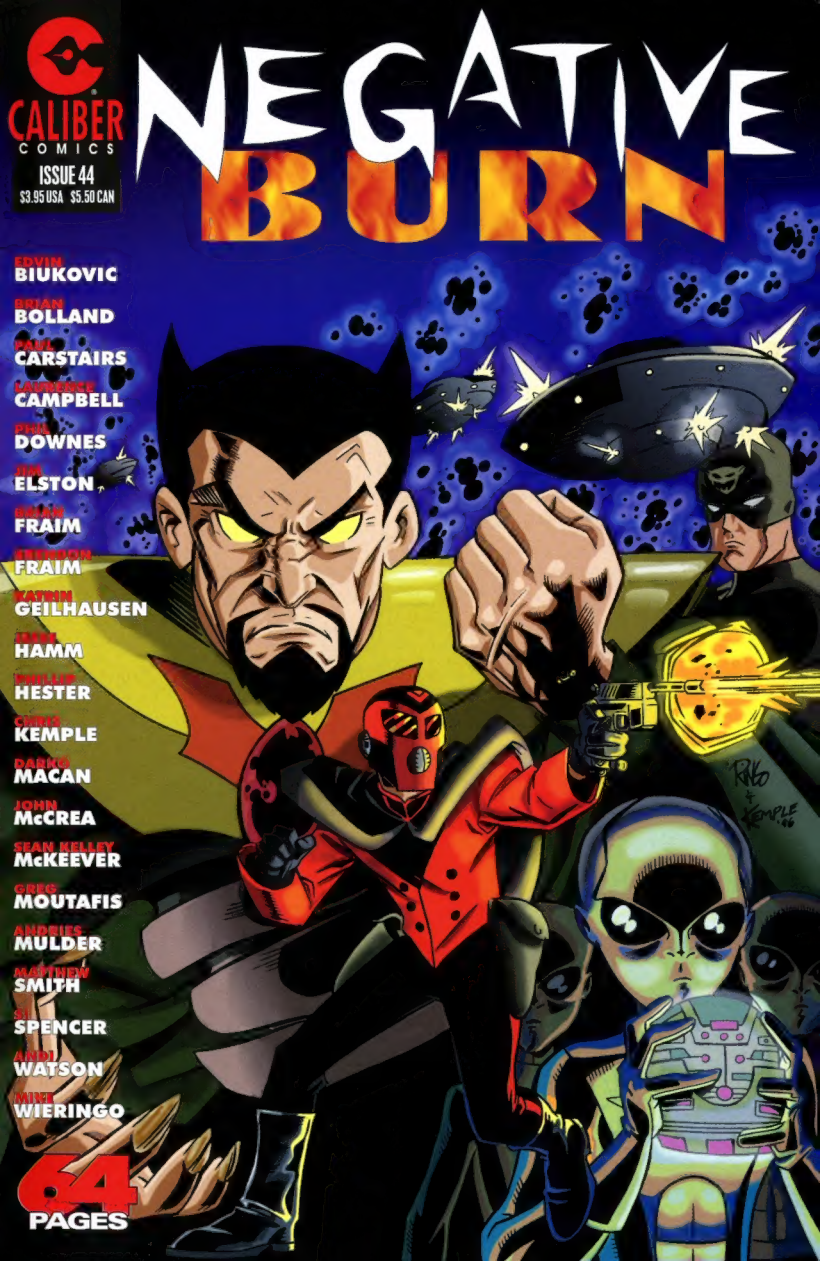
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64
PAGES

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VOLUME ONE • NUMBER FORTY-FOUR

1 THE RED VENGEANCE
written and illustrated by Chris Kemple

16 MR. MAMOULIAN
written and illustrated by Brian Bolland

17 SKELETON KEY
written and illustrated by Andi Watson

26 1915
written by Darko Macan
illustrated by Edvin Biuković

27 CHET AND HIS DOG ARGUS
written by Andries Mulder
illustrated by Jim Elston

33 COMICS TO BORE & CONFUSE YOU
written and illustrated by Jesse Hamm

41 MY LIFE AS RILEY
written by Matthew Smith
illustrated by Phillip Hester

43 WHY MASAKO NEVER CRIES
plot/illustrated by Greg Moutafis
script by Phil Downes

51 INDIGNITIES
written by Si Spencer
illustrated by John McCrea

55 HAVE A HEART
written by Sean Kelley McKeever
penciled and lettered by Brendon Fraim
inked by Brian Fraim

58 THE DAY JOB
written by Paul Carstairs
illustrated by Laurence Campbell and Katrin Geilhausen

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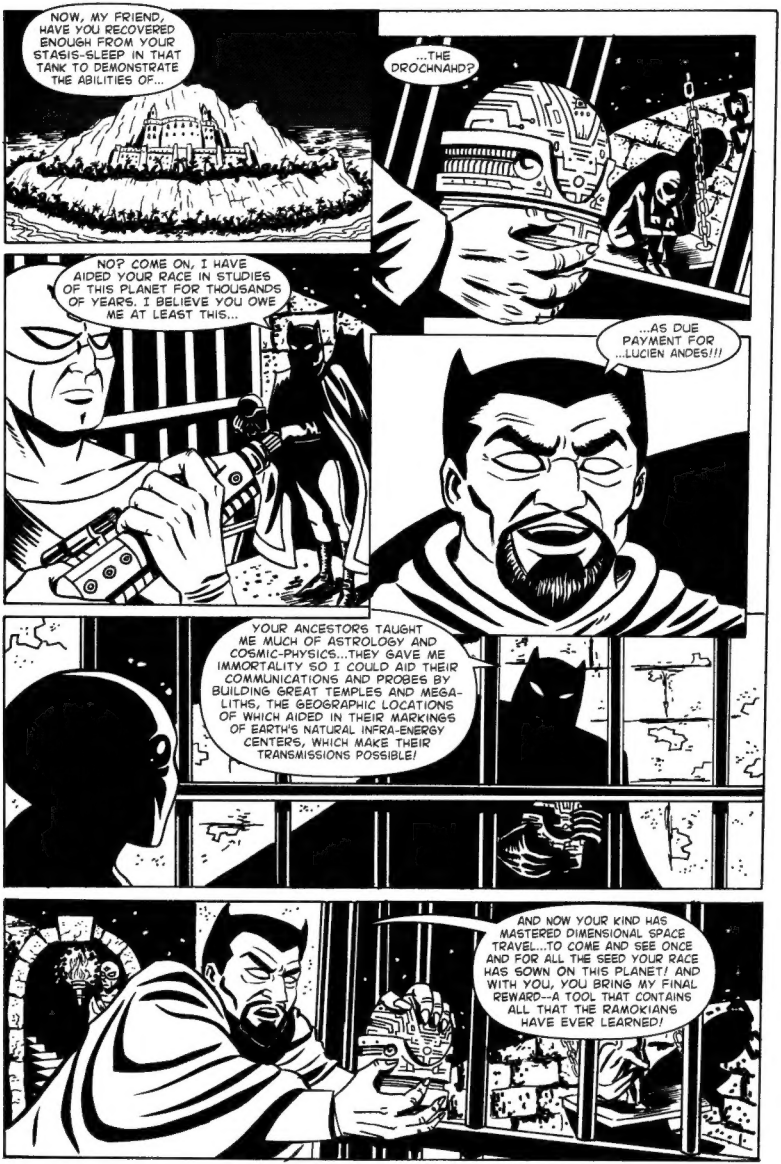
ANCIENT EGYPT, 2000 YEARS AGO...IT HAS BEEN BELIEVED FOR CENTURIES THAT THE MONUMENTS CONSTRUCTED HERE UNLOCK MANY MYSTERIOUS SECRETS...
HOW AND WHY THESE MONUMENTS WERE CONSTRUCTED HAS ALSO BEEN CAUSE FOR SPECULATION. MANY EXPERTS CLAIM TO KNOW, BUT TRUTH CAN OFTEN BE HIDDEN BY TIME AND HISTORY...
ONE MAN KNOWS THE TRUTH, FOR HE WAS THERE...A MAN WHO IS HIMSELF AN ENIGMA OF TIME AND SPACE, AND WHOSE LIFE AND MOTIVES ARE AS MYSTERIOUS AS THE MONUMENTS THEMSELVES...
...AND JUST AS ANCIENT...

THROUGHOUT TIME OTHER MONUMENTS HAVE BEEN ERECTED--THOSE WHICH SEEM TO HAVE CONNECTIONS TO ASTRONOMY AND THE HEAVENS...AND MYSTERIOUS MEGALITHS THAT APPEAR TO AWAIT SOMETHING OMINOUS...
SUCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL WONDERS CONSTRUCTED SO FAR APART IN HISTORY COULD NEVER BE CONNECTED...
STONEHENGE
EASTER ISLAND
...OR CAN THEY? ONE MAN SEES CONNECTIONS WHERE OTHERS CANNOT. HE HAS SEEN THE IMPOSSIBLE BEFORE...
AND THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN HIM BELIEVE HE CAN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE AS WELL...BUT THIS MAN IS NO ANCIENT RELIC OR RIDDLE...
...THIS MAN IS...
RED VENGEANCE!
LET'S SEE ...ALL OF THESE MONUMENTS AND RUNES FORM A PATTERN...

BY EXPONENTIALLY ADDING THE CENTURIES EACH OF THESE WERE CONSTRUCTED AND THE COORDINATES OF THEIR LOCATIONS ON THE ATLAS...
THEY FORM A ROUGH LINE TO THIS LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE ...A SMALL ISLAND HERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC!
PACIFIC OCEAN
THIS MUST LEAD TO MY ARCH NEMESIS ...LUCIEN ANDES! I'VE HAD A CONTACT CONFIRM ITS LOCATION, AND HE'S EVEN SEEN EVIDENCE OF A FORTRESS ON THE ISLAND!
NOW THE QUESTION IS ...EH? THE VIDEO-PHONE! MUST BE POP-RATHER-PROFESSOR CONROY!
RED VENGEANCE! DO YOU READ ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR, PROFESSOR! ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I JUST RECEIVED WORD OF AN INCIDENT AT ONE OF OUR U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WHICH MAY RELATE TO OUR CURRENT MISSION!
DO TELL!
DETAILS ARE SKETCHY, BUT THERE WAS A BREAK-IN AND ROBBERY LAST NIGHT AT THE AIR FORCE BASE IN ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO! THIS MAY BE RELATED TO AN EARLIER ACCIDENT IN THE DESERT THERE, REPORTED CLASSIFIED BY THE FBI!
AREA 50
AREA 51
MP
ROSWELL
NEW MEXICO
AIR FORCE BASE
NO ADMITTANCE

THREE NIGHTS AGO, SOME KIND OF AIRCRAFT CRASHED NEAR THE BASE, KILLING MOST OF ITS PILOTS...
SUPPOSEDLY ONE CREWMAN WAS RESCUED FROM THE AFTERMATH, TREATED FOR HIS INJURIES, AND PLACED INSIDE AN IRON LUNG. LATER, THE BASE WAS BROKEN INTO, SEVERAL SOLDIERS BEING KILLED IN THE PROCESS!
A DARK, CLOAKED FIGURE LED THE INFILTRATORS, WHO KIDNAPPED THE INJURED PILOT...
...AND STOLE A STRANGE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT FOUND ON BOARD THE CRAFT!
I TRUST THE ASSAILANT DESCRIBED SOUNDS FAMILIAR...IT'S YOUR MOVE NOW!
IS THAT RV? HAAY, OL' BUDDY! IT'S YOUR PAL! REMEMBER WHEN WE BEAT THAT ROBOT? HUH?
ER, HELLO KEVIN. YES, WHAT FUN. WELL, I MUST GO! SIGNING OFF!
NICE KID, BUT SHEESH! WELL, THIS WAS JUST GOING TO BE A RECONAISSANCE MISSION, BUT NOW THAT ANDES HAS ATTACKED U.S. SOIL, I HAVE EVERY RIGHT...
TO BRING HIM IN!


NOW, MY FRIEND, HAVE YOU RECOVERED ENOUGH FROM YOUR STASIS-SLEEP IN THAT TANK TO DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITIES OF...
...THE DROCHNAHD?
NO? COME ON, I HAVE AIDED YOUR RACE IN STUDIES OF THIS PLANET FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. I BELIEVE YOU OWE ME AT LEAST THIS...
...AS DUE PAYMENT FOR ...LUCIEN ANDES!!!
YOUR ANCESTORS TAUGHT ME MUCH OF ASTROLOGY AND COSMIC-PHYSICS...THEY GAVE ME IMMORTALITY SO I COULD AID THEIR COMMUNICATIONS AND PROBES BY BUILDING GREAT TEMPLES AND MEGA-LITHS, THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS OF WHICH AIDED IN THEIR MARKINGS OF EARTH'S NATURAL INFRA-ENERGY CENTERS, WHICH MAKE THEIR TRANSMISSIONS POSSIBLE!
AND NOW YOUR KIND HAS MASTERED DIMENSIONAL SPACE TRAVEL...TO COME AND SEE ONCE AND FOR ALL THE SEED YOUR RACE HAS SOWN ON THIS PLANET! AND WITH YOU, YOU BRING MY FINAL REWARD--A TOOL THAT CONTAINS ALL THAT THE RAMOKIANS HAVE EVER LEARNED!

EVEN IF A HUMAN WERE CAPABLE OF COMPREHENDING AND USING THE DROCHNAHD, I WOULD NOT TEACH YOU...
PERHAPS MY ANCESTORS DID NOT CARE THAT YOU WERE AN ENSLAVER, A MANIPULATOR... BUT WE ARE NOT THAT KIND OF RACE NOW...AND NOW THAT I SEE YOUR TRUE MOTIVES, I WILL NEVER HELP ONE WHO IS, TO USE AN EARTH TERM...EVIL!
YOU SPEAK WITH THE CONFIDENCE OF A RACE WITH ALL THE POWERS OF SCIENCE AND REASON AT YOUR COMMAND...BUT I POSSESS EARTHLY POWERS THAT COME FROM ANCIENT, DARK, AND MYSTIC SOURCES...
...AND THEY CAN BE VERY PERSUASIVE!
AAAAAAAAAA!!!
HAD TO FLY LOW AND LAND ALL THE WAY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND TO AVOID DETECTION! RATHER THAN MAKE MY WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE AND ANDES' "GARGOYLE" SENTRIES, I DECIDED TO MAKE USE OF A BREATHING APPARATUS POP DEVELOPED WITH HIS FRIEND JACQUES... USING AN UNDER WATER LIGHT AND CARRYING MY GEAR IN AN AIRTIGHT SACK, I SWAM AROUND THE CORE OF THE BASE DESCRIBED IN MY CONTACT'S LETTER!

WHY DOES MASTER ANDES KEEP US ON THIS DETAIL? DOES HE THINK A CLAM'S GOING TO ATTACK THE BASE?
QUITE, FOOL! THE MASTER HAS WAYS OF HEARING ALL THINGS!
WELL, WE DON'T HAVE TO STAND ALL NIGHT! WHAT TIME IS THE BIG EVENT WE'RE PREPARING FOR?
AT MIDNIGHT, IF ALL GOES AS PLANNED!
SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR SOMETHING!
AND SO IS LUCIEN ANDES!
STRANGE...THOSE TWO SEEM TO BE THE ONLY GUARDS FOR THE REAR ENTRANCE...IT'S TOO EASY...I WONDER IF ANDES BUILT HIS FORTRESS EONS AGO AS WELL.
NOW TO FIND...WHA? AN ALARM? BUT MY NIGHT VISION DIDN'T PICK UP ANY WIRES!
WAS IT THAT BEAM OF LIGHT? HOW? WHERE DID ANDES GET THAT KIND OF TECHNOLOGY?
CAPTURE THE INFIDEL!

TOO MANY OF THEM...UNGH!
AND SO... THIS IS TRULY A GREAT NIGHT!
SOON, THE CULMINATION OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF WORK...
...AND MY GREATEST 20TH CENTURY NEMESIS WALKS RIGHT INTO MY HANDS! I AM DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER...
UNMASKING THE INFAMOUS RED VENGEANCE WASN'T REVEALING AFTER ALL...YOU'RE JUST AN ORDINARY DOLT!
BUT I'VE SEEN YOUR FACE MANY TIMES..EVEN ON THE SPHINX!
AH, YES! THE FIRST STAGE IN MY PLAN...TO BRING SOMETHING TO THIS WORLD! LOOK BEHIND YOU...
WHAT THE --WHAT IS THAT?!?
THAT, MY FRIEND, IS A RAMOKIAN!
HIS RACE IS FAR ADVANCED OF OURS! WHEN THEY FIRST CONTACTED OUR PLANET, IT WAS I, WITH MY MYSTIC PROWESS, WHO HEARD THEIR MESSAGE! THEY GAVE ME THE SECRET OF IMMORTALITY SO THAT I MIGHT BUILD STRUCTURES TO HARNESS UNSEEN INFRA-ENERGY EMISSIONS FROM EARTH! AFTER MILENNIA, I HAVE READIED THIS WORLD FOR THEIR ARRIVAL, AND TONIGHT IT WILL ALL BE REALIZED!

AND WITH YOU SAFELY LOCKED AWAY, NOTHING CAN POSSIBLY STAND IN MY WAY! NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH...
ONCE MY TRANSACTION IS COMPLETE, I CAN TEST MY NEW KNOWLEDGE OF THE DROCHNAHD... ON YOU!
I MUST PREPARE! ENJOY YOUR LAST FLEETING MOMENTS OF LIFE...WHILE THEY LAST!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, ANDES! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, I SWEAR!
IT'S NO USE, RED-ONE...ANDES WILL SOON HAVE ABSOLUTE POWER, AND IT'S ALL MY DOING.
WHAT? YOU? SOMEHOW I DON'T BELIEVE THAT. NOW STOP GIVING UP AND HELP ME FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE! THESE BARS SEEM TO BE LOCKED BY AN ELECTRONIC MECHANISM...
YES! ANDES HAS FORTIFIED HIS SANCTUARY WELL, WITH OUR TECHNOLOGY! THE ONLY FLAW IS A BRIEF POWER SURGE THAT OCCURS WHEN OUR MOTHERSHIP LANDS... AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE WHICH HAS THE SAME NUMBING EFFECT ON MACHINERY AS YOUR ATOM BOMBS!
SURGE... THAT'S IT! WHEN IT HITS, WE CAN OPEN THE CELL DOOR, AND...
NO, WE CANNOT! ESCAPE IS IMPOSSIBLE!
BUT WHY?
LOOK...
CAN'T YOU SEE IT?
SEE... WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT...THERE'S NOTHING THERE!
IT'S A RAMOKIAN SOUL-EATER! IT WILL DEVOUR US!!!
YES! THE TIME IS NIGH...PREPARE THE LANDING STRIP ...THEY'RE COMING! HA HA HA!!!
I'M TELLING YOU, ANDES IS USING ONE OF HIS DIME-STORE MAGIC TRICKS ON YOU! IT'S AN ILLUSION ONLY YOU CAN SEE! YOU RAMOKIANS MUST BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO MAGIC!
THE LIGHTS ARE OUT! THE SURGE ...NOW IS OUR ONLY CHANCE RED-ONE!
HURRY, YOU DOLTS! ALL MUST BE IN ORDER FOR THEIR LANDING!
HANG ON, MY FRIEND...YOU'RE IN FOR AN OLD-FASHIONED EARTH-PIGGY BACK RIDE!
YIPE!

WELCOME MY FRIENDS! HOW WAS YOUR LONG JOURNEY? I SEE YOU HAVE BROUGHT MORE TECHNOLOGICAL WONDERS FOR ME...HOW GENEROUS!/
NO IDLE PRATTLE, LUCIEN/ OUR TECHNICIAN, THALOS...
YOU SAID IN YOUR TRANSMISSION HE SURVIVED THE CRASH... WHERE IS HE?
I AM SO DREADFULLY SORRY... HE DID NOT SURVIVE AFTER ALL! I TRIED ALL THE SPELLS I HAD, BUT HIS INJURIES WERE TOO SEVERE... YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST REGRETS...
THIS IS TERRIBLE..
THALOS. GONE..
HE WAS OUR FINEST TECHNICIAN...
SHAME ON YOU, ANDES!
WHA...?
FWOOOSH

NOW YOU'RE LYING TO THESE POOR CREATURES, ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE? YOU'RE LOW!
DAMN! WE'LL RUIN EVERYTHING! MEN! MOW HIM DOWN!!!
BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA
BLAST THESE SENTRIES! I'M HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED! WHAT I NEED IS A GREAT BIG WEAPON...
BLAM
BINGO!

NOW THIS IS A GUN!
WHOOM
I'VE GOT TO GET ONE OF THESE! MAYBE DAD CAN WHIP ONE UP!
NOOO! MY MEN! MY FORTRESS! MY PLANE! YOU'RE DESTROYING IT ALL YOU FOOL!!!

I STILL HAVE ONE TRUMP TO PLAY! I STILL HAVE THE DROCHNAHD, AND THALOS! A FEW SIMPLE ILLUSIONS, AND I CAN STILL BE VICTORIOUS!
MY FRIENDS! DO NOT BE ALARMED! STAND BACK... I WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THIS...HOODED MENACE!
BUT WHO WILL PROTECT YOU FROM ME, ANDES? YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT A BETTER EYE ON YOUR POCKETS.
THALOS! WAIT, I CAN EXPLAIN...
THALOS! YOU ARE NOT DEAD! WHAT IS GOING ON?
ANDES HAS BEEN KEEPING ME PRISONER, TRYING TO MAKE ME REVEAL THE POWER OF THE DROCHNAHD! THIS RED-GARBED BEING HELPED ME ESCAPE!

HERE'S YOUR GUN BACK, GUYS. I APPRECIATE IT!
BUT, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT WHO YOU TRUST YOUR SECRETS TO! WITH ALL YOUR SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, YOU'RE PRETTY NAIVE!
WHAT IN..?
WHY MUST WE TRAVEL ACROSS THE UNIVERSE TO LEARN SUCH LESSONS? NOW WE WILL MAKE AMENDS.
YES, YOU ARE RIGHT, RED-ONE.
GOODBYE, RED-ONE! I HOPE WE WILL MEET AGAIN!
GOODBYE! STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, THALOS!
WHAT WAS THAT STRANGE LIGHT THEY BATHED ME IN? STRANGE.. I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THE RAMOKIANS .OR LUCIEN ANDES!
THE END
ART CHRIS KEMPLE
CREATED BY CHRIS KEMPLE
STORY: CHRIS KEMPLE
W/ JEFF PARKER

MR. MAMOULIAN

BOXES

17.1.90 Bolland 27

I GET VERY TIRED OF THIS BOX.
I WANTED TO BE AN EXPLORER YOU KNOW.
AS A BOY I FANCIED MYSELF HACKING MY WAY THROUGH THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST, PADDLING UP THE LIMPOPO.
TREKKING ACROSS THE TAKLA MAKAN DESERT IN SEARCH OF THE LOST CITIES OF KISH, RESTING ON THE SAND DUNED SHORE OF LOP NOR, THE FABLED SHIFTING LAKE, BUT NO!... HERE I AM ON THIS BOX!
YOU SEE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON... I KNOW YOU THINK I'M JUST ANOTHER BUG-FUCK-WACKO BUT I DO. I REALLY DO KNOW WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON HERE.
TRUE. I CAN GET A BIT CRANKY SOMETIMES, RUN OFF AT THE MOUTH A BIT, SO WOULD YOU IF YOU SPENT YOUR WHOLE TIME STANDING ON THIS DAMN BOX!
IN A WAY IT'S ALL BOXES ISN'T IT. BOXES FOR YOU, BOXES FOR ME. ROWS AND ROWS OF EQUALLY SIZED BOXES... ALL MADE OUT OF TICKY TACKY.
IT'S VERY PAINFUL SEEING THINGS AS THEY TRUELY ARE, THE WAY I DO. BUT YOU SEE I HAVE A DIRECT LINK WITH — SHALL WE SAY — THE MAN IN CHARGE, AND IT'S A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW BUT BOXES IS ALL WE GOT!
AND WHEN THERE ARE NO MORE BOXES... THERE'S NO MORE US.
SPLAT!
AND THAT'S THE LAST WORD.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE BLATHERING ON ABOUT!
YOU WILL ONE DAY, PAL.

Skeleton key
" Bring on the Clouds "
© andi '96
SLAP!
EAT THIS!
THUD
TOP CORNER.
GOOD SAVE KITTY.
DAMN.

JAB

GRR

GET OUT OF THE GREASE. YOU JERKS.
WA

YOU GUYSFLBBLB.
THE PUCK WAS STILL IN PLAY.
SMUSH
RUB

ALRIGHT DIRK. ALRIGHT CALM DOWN.
TAMSIN WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HAVING FUN.

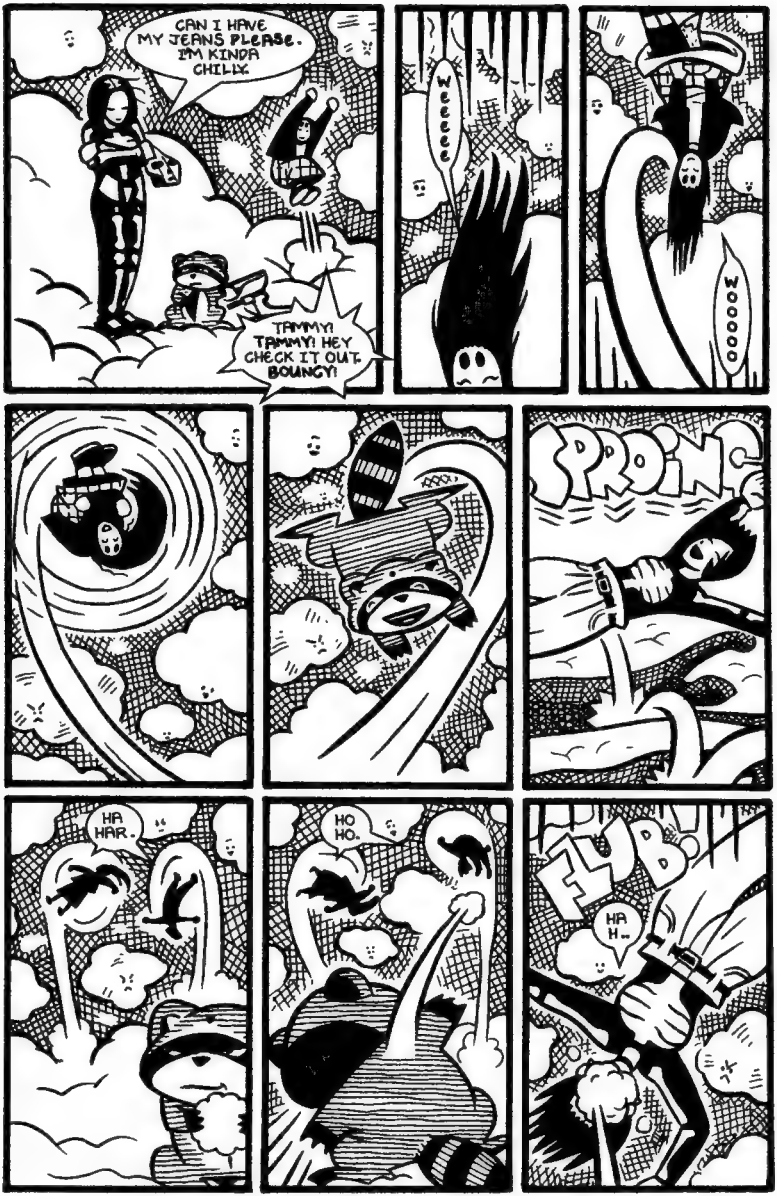
FORGET IT MAN. LET'S CALL IT A DAY. THE JAP UM ASIAN CHICK'S IN A ZONE.
WHYYY YYYOU. I OUGHTA-

NEAT TWIG THO' HUH? ALUMINIUM SHAFT.
S'COOL.

HE IS SUCH A BLOWHOLE! YOKAY, KITTY?
I AM FINE. IT IS JUST HOCKEY. YOU GET TOO MAD.

WELL MISS SMART GUY, YMIGHT WANNA TUCK YOUR TAIL BACK IN THERE. UNLESS Y' WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW YOU'RE A FOX SPIRIT.
AND SO
IT'S SOOOOO HOT.
OH NO. FEEL HOW BRITTLE THE WHEAT IS.
YEAH. THIS HEAT WAVE IS A KILLER.
'N' IF I DON'T HIT SOME SHADE SOON, IM GONNA FAINT.
ANY WATER LEFT IN THAT BOTTLE?
SORRY I FINISHED IT.
PHEW. IM PARCHED.
LATER
LET'S BLOW THIS POPSICLE STAND!
WE CAN USE THE KEY ON THIS ABANDONED SHACK.
I WILL KEEP WATCH, JUST IN CASE.

Y'READY FOR A TRIP, MR. RACCOON?
COOL.
CLIK!
HEY KITTY LET'S GO.
THIS INTER-DIMENSIONAL EXPRESS IS LEAVING THE STATION.
OH MY! ISN'T THIS WORLD BEAUTIFUL, TAMMY?
THANK GOD A COOL BREEZE.
LOOK THIS AMAZING CLOUD STUFF IS AS THICK AS SNOW.
YEAH YEAH. THAT'S GREAT BUT LOOK. NO SUN AND A COOL BREEZE.


CAN I HAVE MY JEANS PLEASE. IM KINDA CHILLY.
TAMMY! TAMMY! HEY CHECK IT OUT. BOUNCY!
WEEEEE
WOOOOOO
SPRONG
HA HAR.
HO HO.
FLYB!
HA H-

FLUMP!
WUAPFH.
WHY YOU LITTLE....
WEEEEE
OH BOY. YOU'RE ROADKILL MISTER. GRRRRR.
WOH
OH
OOHHHH
UMPF
UMPF
JUST KEEP RUNNING YOU FLEA BAG.
ZING
TRIP
ZING
COME BACK HERE.

WHUMP

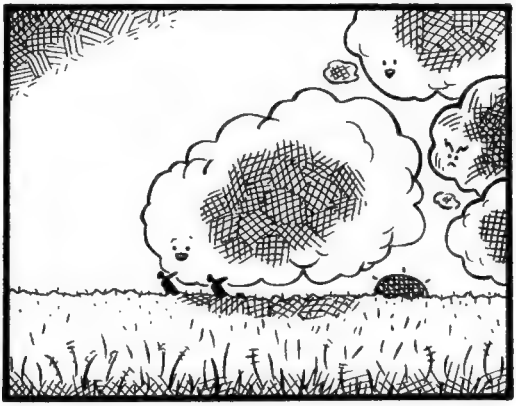
GZZZZZ

HAH HA
HO HO

SOON AFTER
WELL I GUESS WE SHOULD BE HEADING HOME.
HOLD ON I HAVE AN IDEA.

AND SO
OKAY. LET'S DO THIS THING QUICKLY.
THE COAST IS CLEAR.

COME ON YOU CAN DO IT.
BREATHE IN.



OKAY, HIT IT!
AAAH.
YAY!
WHAT
?
CZZT
?
fin

Skeleton Key ©

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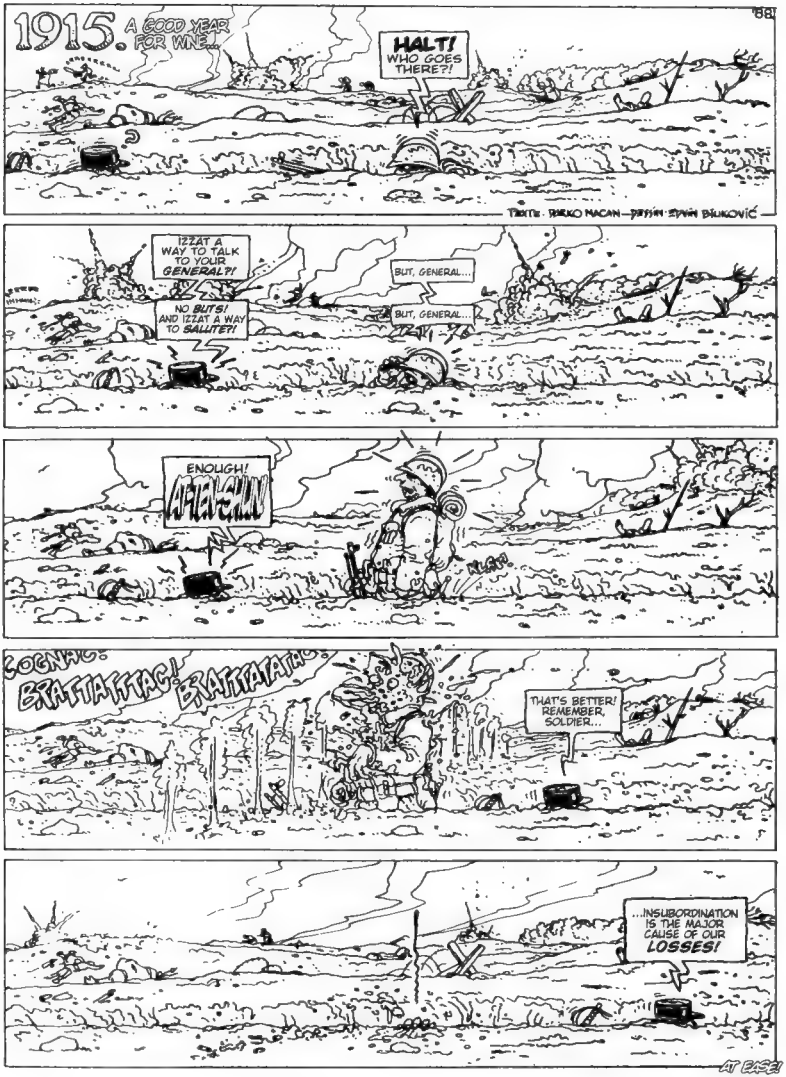
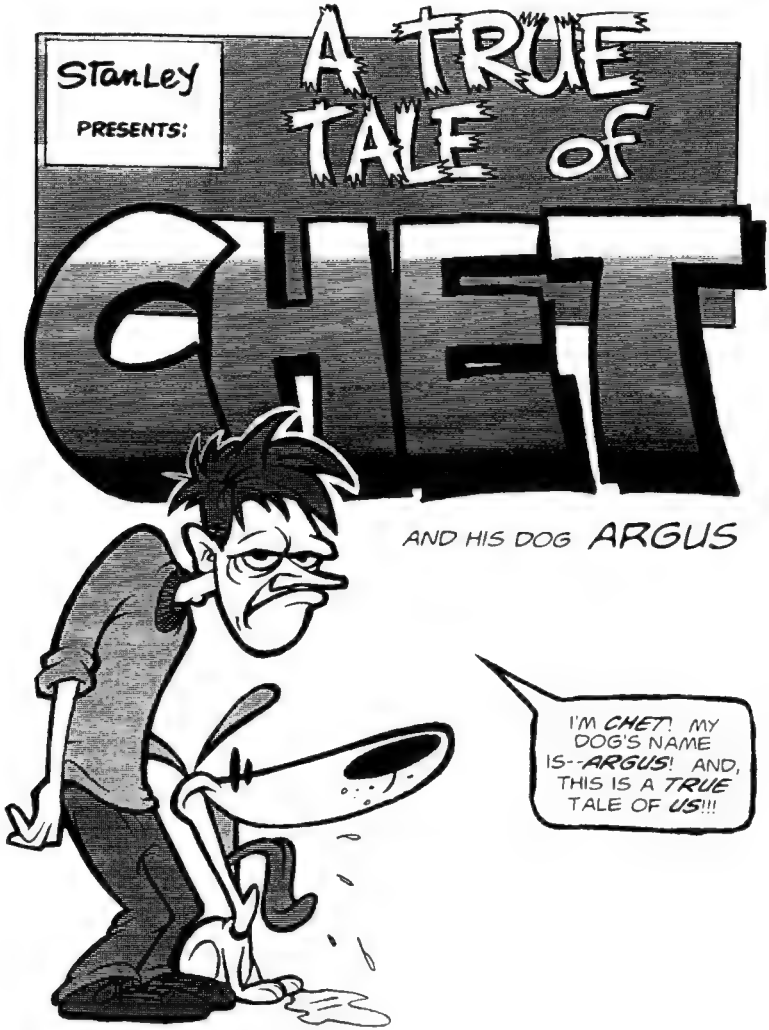
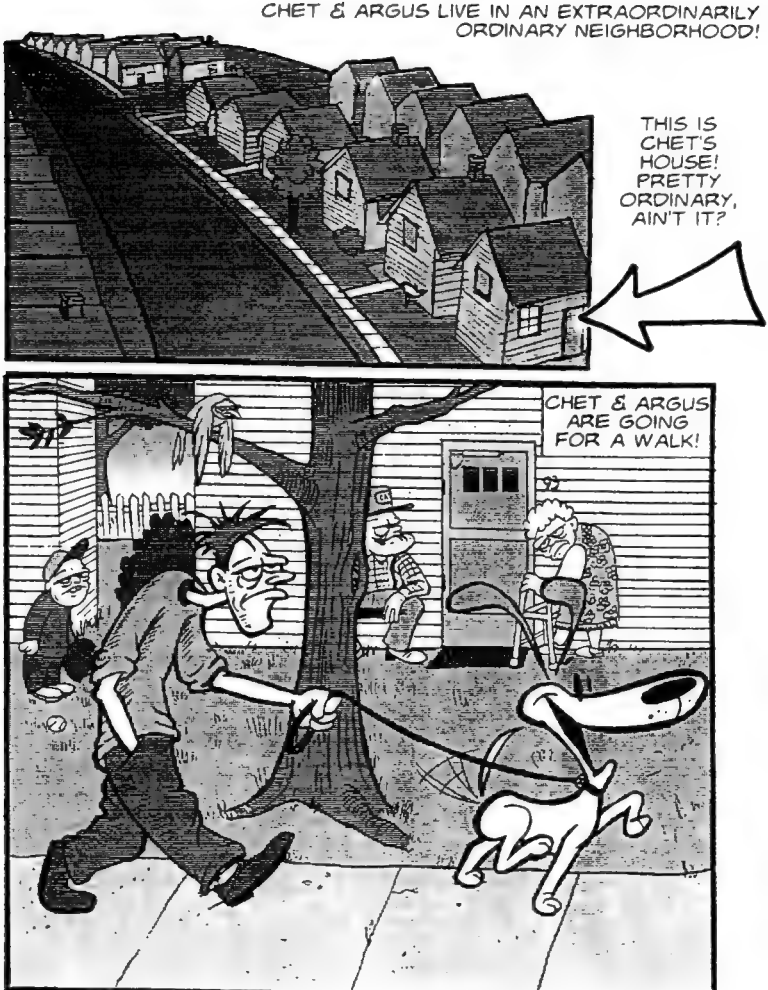

1915. A GOOD YEAR FOR WINE!
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?!
TEXTS: BRKO MACAN — DESIGN: ZVAN BILKOVIĆ
IZZAT A WAY TO TALK TO YOUR GENERAL?!
NO BUTS! AND IZZAT A WAY TO SALUTE?!
BUT, GENERAL...
BUT, GENERAL...
ENOUGH! ARRGHH
COGNAC!
BRATTATTAG! BRATTATATA!
THAT'S BETTER! REMEMBER, SOLDIER...
...INSUBORDINATION IS THE MAJOR CAUSE OF OUR LOSSES!
AT EASE!


STanLey
PRESENTS:
A TRUE TALE of
CHET
AND HIS DOG ARGUS
I'M CHET! MY DOG'S NAME IS--ARGUS! AND, THIS IS A TRUE TALE OF US!!!


CHET & ARGUS LIVE IN AN EXTRAORDINARILY ORDINARY NEIGHBORHOOD!
THIS IS CHET'S HOUSE! PRETTY ORDINARY, AIN'T IT?
CHET & ARGUS ARE GOING FOR A WALK!

In the animal kingdom, ants and humans are the only two creatures that wage wars on mass scales.

CHET DECIDES TO WAGE WAR ON THE ANTS HIMSELF!

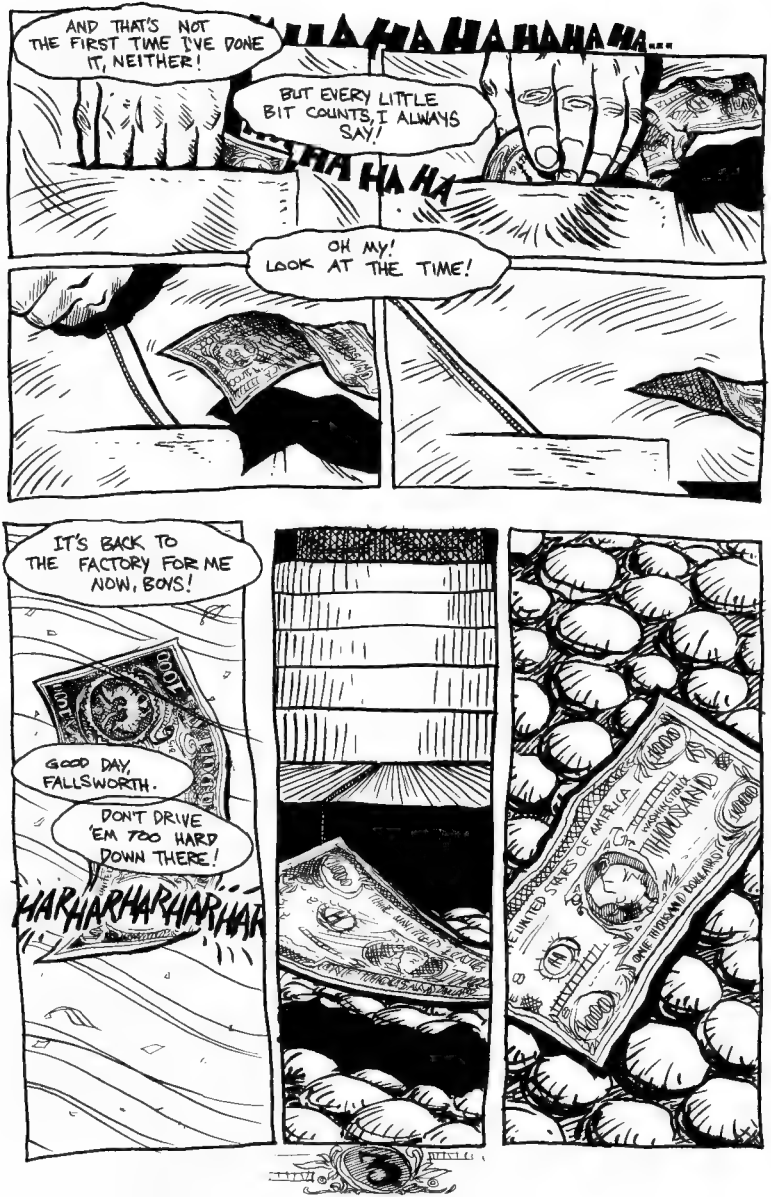
WHY DID I DO THAT? HOW WOULD I LIKE IT IF A GIANT FOOT CAME OUT OF THE SKY AND STOMPED ME?!
SQUASH!

WHAT
HAVE
I
DONE!?

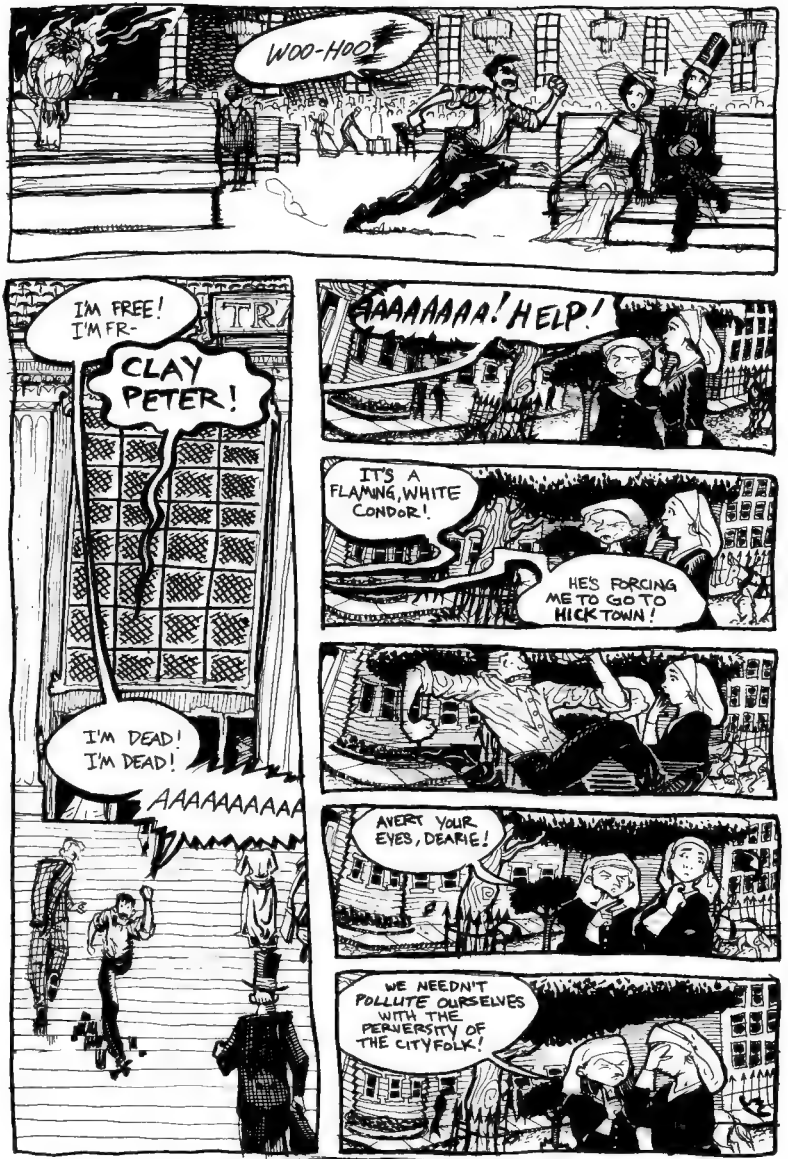
LICK
DON'T TOUCH ME, ARGUS! I'M TAINTED--
EVIL!
I'M NOTHING BUT A COLD BLOODED MURDERER!!!
BUT, YOU SEE THE VIRTUE IN ME DON'T YOU, ARGUS?! MAYBE I CAN CHANGE? YES, I CAN CHANGE!!! I CAN BE--
GOOD!
COME, ARGUS! WALK BESIDE ME AND BE MY FRIEND...
END.

HELLO THERE, FRIENDS! AND WELCOME TO YET ANOTHER HUM-DRUM SHOWCASE OF BORING COMIC ART!
HOO-RAY!
AS YOU KNOW, MAW AND I WERE RECENTLY ACCUSED OF SWINDLING READERS OUT OF THEIR MONEY'S WORTH OF BOREDOM AND CONFUSION!
THE SHAME! THE SHAME!
THE AUTHORITIES HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY TRAPPED US INSIDE THE STORY, DEMANDING THAT WE INFUSE IT WITH THE BOREDOM AND CONFUSION THAT YOU'RE ENTITLED TO!
DON'T WORRY THO'! WE WON'T FAIL YOU!
COMICS to BORE
THEREFORE, WE SHALL SPEND THE REMAINDER OF THIS ISSUE PURVEYING THIS BLANK WALL!
OH BOY!
UTTERLY MYSTIFYING!
I CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO MEAN!
YAWN.
HMM... NOTE, HOWEVER, HOW THE FOREBODING EMPTINESS OF THE SUBJECT CASTS OUR OWN INNOCENCE IN SUCH SHARP RELIEF!
ZZZZ..
& CONFUSE YOU... by
SIMPLY EXQUISITE! IT WOULD BE SUCH A SHAME IF A SUDDEN PROLOGUE WERE TO INTERRUPT THE READER'S ECSTASY.
ZZZZ...
AHEM!
I SAID, "IT WOULD BE SUCH A SHAME IF A SUDDEN PROLOGUE...
ZZ--EEP!
NOW THEN. LET US RETURN TO THIS MARVELOUS STATIC ENIGMA...
HNN.

SSSSSSSSSSHHH
SUDDEN
PROLOGUE
FUNK
HO HO, FALSWORTH! THAT WAS A GOOD ONE!
TELL US ANOTHER!
AH, LET ME SEE... OH, I KNOW! THERE'S THIS REALLY ANCIENT CHAP WHO USED TO WORK FOR ME...
I DIDN'T CARE MUCH FOR HIS WORK,...
BUT THE YOUNGER FELLAHS THOUGHT HE WAS GOD
ANYWAY, IT CAME TIME FOR HIM TO RETIRE.
NOW, HE HAD, MAYBE, THREE HUNDRED BUCKS IN HIS RETIREMENT FUND...
YEAH, GO ON!
...SO I SAYS TO MYSELF, "WHAT'S AN OLD COOT LIKE HIM GONNA DO WITH THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS?"
AFTER ALL, "MAY THE STRONG SURVIVE," AND ALL THAT GOOD STUFF.
SO I HAS LUCY TYPE UP THIS ITEMIZED DEDUCTION INVOICE.
YOU KNOW, "MINUS THIS FOR THIS" AND "THAT FOR THAT."
FORTUNATELY, ARTISTS ARE LOUSY WITH NUMBERS! HE BOUGHT IT HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER!
SO HE WALKS OFF WITH THIS SAD LOOK ON HIS FACE AND NOT A CENT IN HIS POCKET!


AND THAT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE DONE IT, NEITHER!
HA HA HA HA HA HA...
BUT EVERY LITTLE BIT COUNTS, I ALWAYS SAY!
HA HA HA
OH MY! LOOK AT THE TIME!
IT'S BACK TO THE FACTORY FOR ME NOW, BOYS!
GOOD DAY, FALLSWORTH.
DON'T DRIVE 'EM TOO HARD DOWN THERE!
HARHARHARHARHAR
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
THE HAVILAND FACTORY
ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS

"DETOUR DE FORCE"
KENDALL.
YOU WANT ME TO TAKE A TRIP TO KENDALL.
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT KENDALL'S A HICK TOWN!
HOW CAN WE HELP THE MASSES THERE?
NOT ONLY THAT...
BUT EVERYTHING I KNOW AND LOVE IS RIGHT HERE IN TOWN!
OOPS.
PICK IT UP, CLAY PETER.
EXIT EXIT
TRAIN TICKET


WOO-HOO!
I'M FREE! I'M FR-
CLAY PETER!
I'M DEAD! I'M DEAD!
AAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAA! HELP!
IT'S A FLAMING, WHITE CONDOR!
HE'S FORCING ME TO GO TO HICK TOWN!
AVERT YOUR EYES, DEARIE!
WE NEEDN'T POLLUTE OURSELVES WITH THE PERVERSITY OF THE CITYFOLK!

=HUFF=
=HUFF=
=HUFF=
!!!
HUH-UH
HUH-UH
HUH-UH
HUH-UH
HUH-UH
HUH-UH
HUH-UH
HUH-UH
HUH
TRAIN
MM...
ELIZABETH, I'M HUNGRY...
HEY...
WHO'S THERE?
HUH? OH!
--MISTER, WE'RE STARVING!
CAN YOU GET US SOMETHING TO EAT?
NO,...I CAN'T.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY MONEY!
BUT WAIT A SECOND.
YOU UP THERE! THE BIG CONDOR! WE NEED FOOD DOWN HERE!
CAN'T YOU SEE? BIG CONDOR!
NOT THE ONE AT THE TRAIN STATION!
THE REALLY BIG ONE, I MEAN...
HE--
CLAY PETER.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
AAAAA!
I AM THE ONE FROM THE TRAIN STATION!
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.

YOU ARE THE SUPREME! YOU ARE THE SUPREME!
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND!

MY WISH IS THAT YOU WOULD OBEY MY COMMANDS!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE THE TRAIN TO KENDALL?

THE TRAIN?
BUT--BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE HERE WHO NEED HELP?
WHAT ABOUT THESE KIDS?

WHAT ABOUT THEM?

YOU CAME TO SAVE AND NOT DESTROY, RIGHT?
WELL, YOU SHOULD GIVE ME SOME FOOD TO GIVE THEM.
THAT'S WHY I THINK WE SHOULD STAY HERE; THINK OF ALL THE PEOPLE WE COULD HELP!

CLAY PETER...
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TEACH YOU A LESSON.
COME WITH ME.

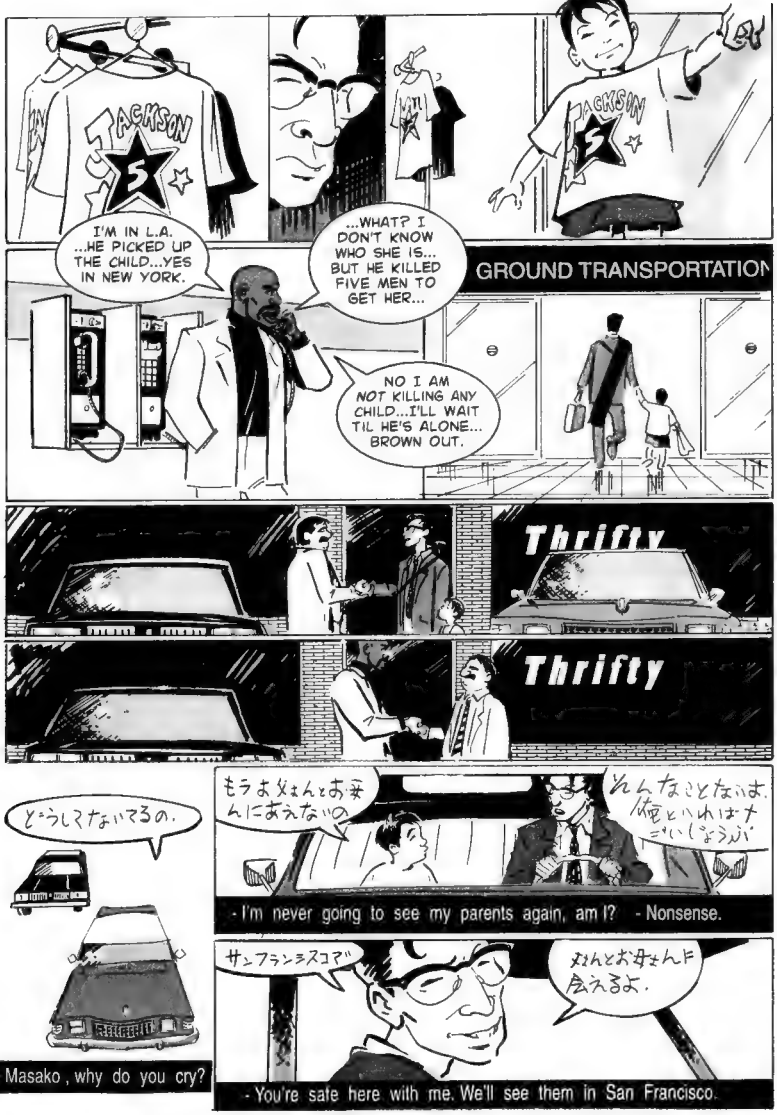
HNH?

DO YOU SEE THAT RESTAURANT OVER THERE?
YES.
I WANT YOU TO GO OVER THERE AND BUY SOME FOOD FOR THESE CHILDREN.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!
YOU WANT ME TO JUST HUMILIATE MYSELF?
GO, CLAY PETER.
NAN!
I'M HUNGRY ELIZABETH..
I KNOW, JACK...
I KNOW.
ALRIGHT.
HUMILIATING OR NOT...
...THOSE KIDS ARE WORTH A TRY.
I'LL OBEY YOU.
!
OHHHHHH-
YEEEAAAAH.
TO BE CONTINUED...

My Life As Riley
The Dream
SMITH/HESTER
I DREAMT HER AGAIN LAST NIGHT.
I TRY TO REACH OUT TO HER...
WANTING HER TO GRAB MY HAND...
BRIDGE THE GAP.
BUT SHE DOESN'T SEE ME.
SHE WON'T CLOSE THE CIRCUIT.

I TRY TO CALL HER NAME.
BUT THE WORDS CHOKE ON MY HESITATION.
A WISP OF SMOKE.
SHE IS GONE AGAIN
AND I AM ALONE.
END

1976.
LOS ANGELES.
KYO 340
MR. OKAWA WAS A MAN WHO MANY IN MY BUSINESS FEAR.
THE CHILD MAY HAVE BEEN FAMILY. WE DIDN'T KNOW.
Why Masako Never Cries
MY NAME IS BROWN. USED TO BE A GOVERNMENT...PROFESSIONAL...I'D BEEN HIRED BY SOME GENTLEMEN TO RETRIEVE A LARGE SUM OF MONEY.
AND TERMINATE MR. OKAWA'S SERVICES.
CUSTOMS
BAGGAG
CLAIM
NO, MY BROTHER'S.
GIFT SHOP
• NEWSPA
• MAGAZI
• CIGARET
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CHILD, IS SHE YOURS?


JACKSON 5
I'M IN L.A. ...HE PICKED UP THE CHILD...YES IN NEW YORK.
...WHAT? I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS... BUT HE KILLED FIVE MEN TO GET HER...
NO I AM NOT KILLING ANY CHILD...I'LL WAIT TIL HE'S ALONE... BROWN OUT.
GROUND TRANSPORTATION
Thrifty
Thrifty
どうしてないてるの.
もう父さんと母さんにあえないの
そんなことないよ. 俺とハルはナニいってんだ
- Masako, why do you cry?
- I'm never going to see my parents again, am I? - Nonsense.
サンフランシスコで
父さんと母さんに会えるよ.
- You're safe here with me. We'll see them in San Francisco.

ほら. なみだをふいて.
なきたいときにとなまたくな マヨろよ. いいことはない
- Here, dry your eyes. Crying just leads to more crying. It does not help.
アイスクリームでもとろうか.
うん.
- How about some ice cream?
- Okay.
CONK CONK
I NEED YOUR CAR.
WHAT ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? I-
CRACK
SORRY, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO ARGUE.

Jay's Variety
OPEN
I GOTTA USE THE JOHN.
HURRY IT UP.
WHERE DO YOU HOLD YOUR ICE CREAM?
OVER THERE, CHINAMAN.
ice cream

BOOM!

FLUSSHH
Men
BLAM
SWOOSH
ARG
ARG!

Jay's Variety
CLOSED
Click
BANG! BANG!

YEAH, I GOT THE MONEY.
VALUE-STOP
OWAKA? DEAD.
WEIGH STATION
THE GIRL'S DEAD, TOO.
YOU LIKE THE JACKSON 5 TOO, HUH?
COME ON KID, LET'S GO.
HER NAME WAS MASAKO.
SHE NEVER SAID HER LAST NAME, SHE NEVER TOLD ME WHERE THEY WERE HEADING, AND EXCEPT FOR HER LOOKIN' BACK AND WIPIN' AWAY ONE TEAR...
Points North
405
5
MASAKO NEVER CRIED AGAIN.
GREG MOUTAFIS: ART
PHIL DOWNES: SCRIPT

SINCE MARGARET PASSED AWAY, I DO MY OWN SHOPPING
CHICKEN SUPREME, BEEF RISSOTTO, PRAWN CURRY, SPECIAL CHOW MEIN.
SOUPS
NOW FOR'S
ALL PART OF LIFE'S
SCRIPT : SI SPENCER
indignities
a tale from uglytown
ART : JOHN McCREA
MY TASTES ARE SIMPLE AND MY CULINARY ABILITIES LIMITED..
SEVEN ITEMS - JOLLY GOOD
SO I GENERALLY USE THE QUICK SERVICE TILL.
AND THERE HE WAS, JUST IN FRONT OF ME
TILL
27 ITEMS OR I'M A DUTCHMAN.
IT'S NOT MY WAY TO CAUSE A COMMOTION
KWIK SERVICE
KOF... KOFF... HRMFF.
BUT I LET HIM KNOW MY FEELINGS ON THE MATTER
BUT WHAT'S THE USE OF DISCRETION?
ANTI-SOCIAL, BY JIM...
MY DAY WAS RUINED
THAT EVENING, I ATE MY MEAL WITHOUT ZEST.
BLOODY RUBBISH.
STARED AT THE IDIOT BOX
AND WENT TO BED, DISGRUNTLED
MARGARET

WHEN I WENT TO THE LIBRARY ON THURSDAY...
I HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THE INCIDENT.
THE LIBRARY'S BEEN A CONSTANT FRIEND SINCE MARGARET.
I LIKE A GOOD YARN.
'TOWN LIKE ALICE' AGAIN, MR MORTON? THAT'S ABOUT THE SEVENTH TIME, ISN'T IT?
WELL, I WANTED THE FORSYTH, BUT IT'S STILL OUT
THEN IT HAPPENED!
SMOKING
85p TO PAY ON THE FORSYTH, I'M AFRAID.
NO ENTRY STAFF ONLY
BOOK RETURNS HERE
HIM WITH MY DEVIL'S ALTERNATIVE.
IT WAS SUNDAY BEFORE I HAD THE HEART TO START 'ALICE.'
IT WASN'T THE SAME SOMEHOW.
A TOWN LIKE ALICE
NEVIL SHUTE

THE NEXT DAY I ARRIVED AT THE OFFICE..
A NEW DESK, MR. HAYS?
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S THE AUDITOR FROM ROMFORD-HE'LL BE HERE FOR A WEEK OR SO.
A NEW CHAP... COMPANY.
HE KNOWS THE DRILL... JUST MAKE HIM FEEL WELCOME, KEN.
AND FROM ROMFORD!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT... HIM... AND FROM ROMFORD.
COULDN'T BORROW ME A PEN COULD YOU FRIEND?
HIS GRAMMAR WAS APPALING.
I SAT AND WATCHED IN DISMAY...
HIM CHEWING ON MY PAPERMATE!
HUM! TUM TUM
THAT WEEK WAS A NIGHTMARE
HE CHEWED GUM...
BIT HIS FOUL NAILS.
AND CLEANED HIS EARS WITH HIS PEN...
...MY PEN.

BY FRIDAY I WAS AT THE END OF MY TETHER.
I AM A PATIENT MAN, GOD KNOWS, BUT THIS...
GENTS
THAT AFTERNOON I FOLLOWED HIM INTO THE GENTS
I WAITED FOR HIM TO FINISH HIS BUSINESS...
PSSSS
DRIP
WHEN SUDDENLY...
ZIPP!
PFFOOT!
LOOK, FRIEND, WHAT IS THIS? YOU SNORT AT ME IN THE SUPERMARKET, STEAL MY NEVIL SHUTE,
YOU GAWP AT ME ALL DAY, PICK YOUR NOSE, DISTURB MY CONCENTRATION AND NOW YOU FOLLOW ME INTO THE BOG!
YOU'RE BEGINING TO GET ON MY WICK, FRIEND
MARGARET
END

...
SO.
HOW LONG'S IT BEEN? SIX YEARS?
TEN.
TEN... TEN YEARS.
HAVE A HEART
ANOTHER McKEEVER, FRAIM & FRAIM PRODUCTION
YOU KNOW, I THINK IT WAS SIX YEARS BEFORE I EVEN REALIZED YOU WERE GONE. IT JUST NEVER OCCURED TO ME.
I WAS HAVING SOME ROUGH TIMES BACK THEN. ALWAYS ALONE--I EVEN GOT TO LIKING IT...
FOR A LITTLE WHILE, I EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT...
HOW COME YOU NEVER CONTACTED ME?
YOU KNOW IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.
YEAH...

IT'S SO WEIRD. I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU-- ST. LOUIS, CHICAGO, APPLETON, COLUMBUS...
YOU'VE BEEN BUSY...
...AND HERE I FIND YOU. HERE! I- I WASN'T EVEN HERE TO LOOK FOR YOU!
"ALWAYS WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT..."
OH, MAN, WHEN I SAW YOU WITH HER... I JUST FROZE UP.
HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW?
TINGLY. KINDA NERVOUS. THAT'S YOU ISN'T IT?
GOD...IT'S SO GOOD TO FINALLY HAVE YOU BACK.
PROMISE ME SOMETHING. PROMISE ME YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE ME AGAIN.
SHE HAS TO PROMISE THAT.
SHE'S AMAZING, ISN'T SHE? SHE'S VIBRANT, SEXY... AND SMART...
I PICKED HER OUT FOR YOU. FOR TEN YEARS I'VE BEEN WITH HER.
SHE NEVER KNEW I EXISTED UNTIL YOU'D SHOWN UP.

...
SO WHAT NOW?
NOW? NOW WE WALK OUT THIS DOOR AND SIT AT THE DINNER TABLE. THEN... YOU FALL IN LOVE.
LOVE
YOU READY?
I'M READY.
HAV-A-HART SUPPLY CO

place.the waiting
a
new
series
coming
in
april
1997
from
sean kelley
mckeever
brendon
fraim
brian
fraim
and
SLG

THIS WASN'T MY DAY.
DAMN!
I MEAN REALLY.
I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ON DUTY FOR ANOTHER THIRTEEN HOURS. THIS WASN'T MY DAY. BUT FOR SOME DAMN FOOL REASON I'D TAKEN THE CALL.
BEFORE I COULD MUMBLE 'CONTACT SATURDAY INSTEAD', THEY TOLD ME THERE'D BEEN TROUBLE. BAD TROUBLE. SEEMS SATURDAY HAD GOT INTO SOMETHING WAY OVER HIS HEAD.
SOMEONE HAD GONE AND WASTED HIM.
ONLY TWO SUSPECTS WERE DOWN AT THE STATION. THEY'D BEEN UNDER LOCK AND KEY IN CRAMPED, STUFFY HOLDING CELLS FOR SOME MISERABLY LONG AMOUNT OF TIME. I LIKED THAT.
SHOULD BE READY TO TALK
O.K. YOU TWO, I GOTTA TYPE UP THIS REPORT HERE, SEE? AND I DON'T LIKE TYPING UP NO REPORT HERE, SEE? THESE BIG CLUNKY KEYS HURT MY POOR BABY SOFT FINGERTIPS, YOU GET ME?
WHICH MEANS I WANT IT SHORT, I WANT IT STRAIGHT AND I DON'T WANNA HAVETA GO BACK AND CLEAR UP ANY LITTLE IN CO-SISTENCIES AN' OVERSIGHTS YOU MIGHT HAPPEN TO MAKE.
UNNERSTAND?!

YOU. SHOOT.
CAFE
WELL, WE'RE IN THIS CAFE THAT WE GO TO AND OUR MATE SATURDAY... WELL, I SAY 'MATE'. NEVER KNEW HE WAS AN UNDERCOVER-
-YEAH, YEAH, JUST STICK WITH THE STORY.
YEAH WELL, ANYWAY HE'S GOT TWO TICKETS FOR CLUB PATOUT!, SO WE'RE LIKE "GREAT". "YEAH", ONLY AS USUAL, SOMEONE'S GONE AND PISSED ALL HIS MONEY AWAY THE NIGHT BEFORE, HASN'T HE?
BUT HE WANTS THE TICKETS ANYWAY, DOESN'T HE?, SO JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID, HE TRIES GRABBING THEM OFF SATS, WHOSE HAVING NONE OF IT, AND THEN HE JUST GOES MENTAL.
AND EVERYONE'S STARING, RIGHT? AND THESE TWO'RE HAVING A RIGHT BARNEY BY NOW AND THEY FALL RIGHT INTO ME AND THE TABLE AND EVERY-THING GOES EVERYWHERE AND THEN...
..THERE'S THIS bang.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK? I THINK HE ACTUALLY LIKES A BIT OF A FIGHT AND SOME VIOLENCE. SHOULD SEE SOME OF THE FILMS HE LIKES. AND MAYBE HE THINKS GETTING LOCKED UP'S PRETTY COOL AND GROWN-UP AND HARD, TOO.
AND, WELL, MAYBE IT WAS A BIT ALONG THE LINES OF, "I HAVN'T GOT ANY MONEY FOR THE CLUB, BUT I COULD HAVE A BIT OF A LAUGH HERE ANYWAY."
WELL, NEXT TIME, HAVE A "BIT OF A LAUGH" ON YOUR OWN, ALRIGHT?

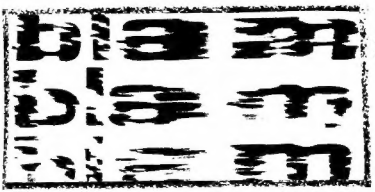
SO THAT'S THE WAY YOU SAW IT, HUH? O.K. TOUGH GUY, LET'S HERE IT FROM YOU.
WELL LOOK, WHEN SATS COMES IN RIGHT, I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING GOING ON THERE, RIGHT?
HE'S REALLY GIVING HER THE EYE THERE AND I'M LIKE, "OH GREAT, YOU GOING TOGETHER THEN?" COS I CAN'T AFFORD IT MYSELF, Y'KNOW?
AN' HE CAN SEE IT, CAN'T HE? AND'S WAVING THE TICKETS RIGHT IN MY FACE RIGHT, I MEAN THE BLOKES ASKING FOR IT, Y' KNOW?
SO... I POPPED HIM ONE.
AND SATS TRIES COMING BACK AT ME AND THERE'S A BIT OF A TUSSLE AND HE SHOVES ME INTO THE TABLE, BUT I PULL HIM WITH ME AND I REMEMBER THE TABLE CRASHING DOWN...
AND THEN THERE'S A FUCKING GUN SHOT ISN'T THERE?
I RECKON SHE WAS A BIT ANGRY AT ME HAVING A GO AT SATS, AN' ALSO SAW ME GETTING IN THE WAY FOR THE CLUB AND THOUGHT "AH FUCK IT, I'VE HAD IT WITH HIM"
'CEPT WHEN IT CAME DOWN TO IT, SHE COULDN'T QUITE DO IT AND SHE FLINCHES AND SHE MISSES AND HITS SATS BY MISTAKE.
WELL, TAKE A TIP DARLIN', NEXT TIME JUST GO AHEAD AND DO IT. I'D RATHER THAT THAN ROT AWAY IN SOME SCUZZY CELL! ALRIGHT?!

SEEMS TO ME LIKE ALL WE KNOW FOR SURE IS YOU EACH GET LOCKED UP IN A ITSY GREY CELL AND HAVE TO WASTE A DAMN CRYING SHAME OF GOD GIVEN PRECIOUS TIME BECAUSE OF IT.
SATURDAY... HE'S WELL... 'REPLACEABLE' ....SO IF YOU TWO LITTLE LOVE BIRDS'D SHAKE AND FORGET YOUR DIFFERENCES I'M THINKING YOU PROBABLY SUFFERED ENOUGH ALREADY.
THERE'S A WHOLE WORLD OUT THERE KIDS. LAST THING YOU SHOULD BE DOING'S WASTING IT AWAY. THAT, THERE SHOULD BE A LAW AGAINST. C'MON LET ME BUY YOU BOTH A COFFEE TO GET YOURSELVES STARTED.
HOT
GOD, WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS? THINKS HE CAN BUY US COFFEES AFTER THE WAY WE'VE BEEN TREATED.

YOU'RE GOING TO, ARN'T YOU?
WELL S'FREE ISN'T IT? HE'S HAVING TO PAY FROM HIS OWN POCKET ISN'T HE? AN' I'VE BEEN DYIN' FOR A -
OH, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE.
WHAT, IS THIS YOU STARTING AGAIN?
I'M NOT STARTING ANYTHING, I JUST DON'T THINK-
YOU'RE STARTING.
I AM NOT "STARTING"!
YOU NEVER BLOODY STOP DO YOU?
OH!, AND LOOK WHOSE BLOODY TALKING!
KIDS!
OH, UP YER ARSE!, I'VE BLOODY HAD ENOUGH A THIS!
YEAH?! AN' YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE!

HEY, KIDS !!!

KIDS, YOU GOTTA STOP THIS OR YOU'LL END UP—


bam
bam
bam

Oi! YOU TWO!
BACK IN YOUR CELLS! NOW!
AND THAT WAS SUNDAY WASTED, TOO.
THE DAY JOB
story PAUL CARSTAIRS
art girl's view KATRIN GEILHAUSEN
boy's view LAURENCE CAMPBELL

BACK iSSUES

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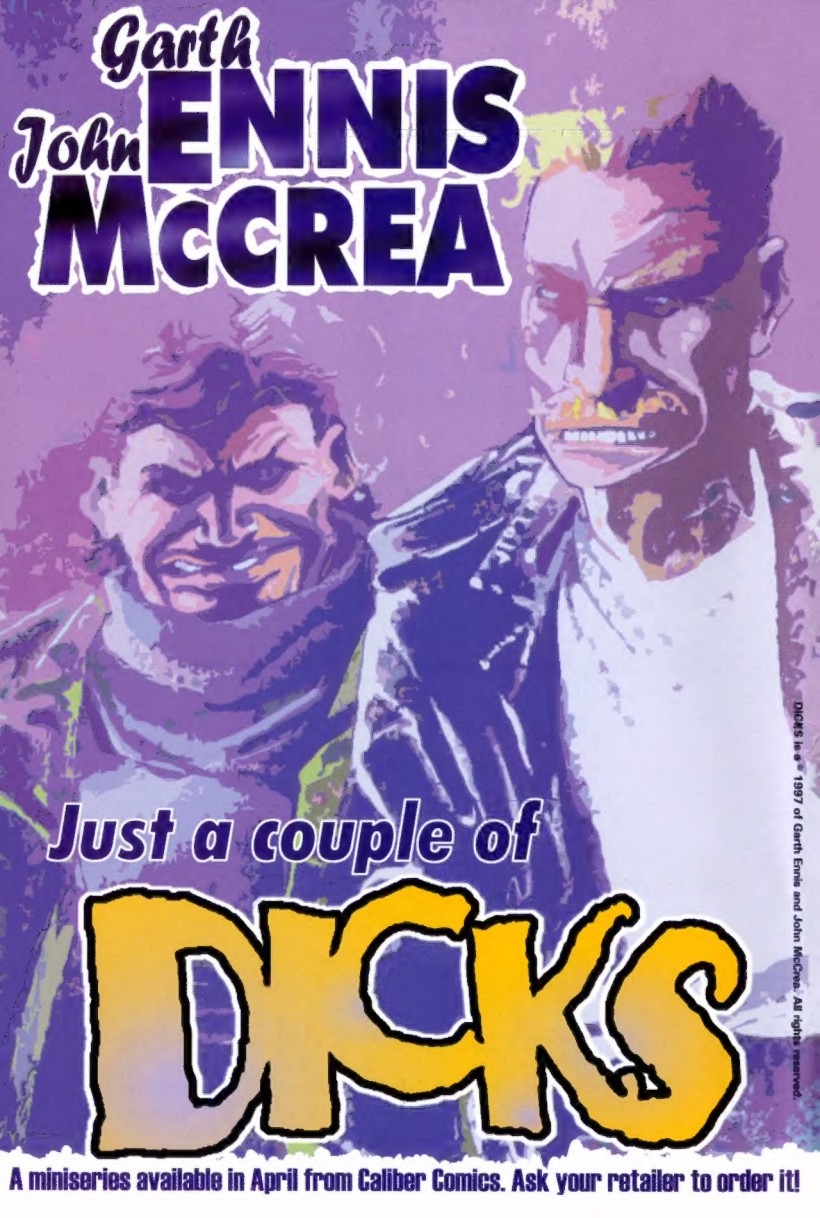
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